

*To the Right Honourable and most Reverend the Lord
Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of the Province
of Rupert's Land.*

MY LORD ARCHBISHOP,

When I went out as Bishop, thirteen years ago, the isolation of my Diocese still continued. It had no village. We were about seven hundred miles from continuous railway communication with the Atlantic Coast. We were three hundred and fifty miles from the most common tradesman. And for seven or eight years there was but little change within the country. We knew, indeed, and felt that a great change was hastening on us. The railway was much nearer. The Electric Telegraph connected us with Canada and the United States. A village called Winnipeg had risen up with about 300 people. Steamers on the Red River came to it regularly.

These years of preparation were not idle years for the Church. The organising of the Church, and of necessary Institutions, was making steady progress. A Diocesan Synod was constituted, and a strong centre for Missionary and Educational purposes was established by a Cathedral body with a Mission Staff, and in close connection with it St. John's College, with a Theological College and a Grammar School for boys. These were fully organized, furnished with small endowments, and incorporated by Parliament under carefully drawn up statutes. It has been my happiness to draw round me, in these Institutions, a staff of most able and loving workers, only too glad to be able in any way to advance the great work of Christ, and of the Church in that land.

While the prospects of change were thus opening before us, and at the time when Canada guaranteed to British Columbia the completion, within ten years, of a Railway from the Atlantic to the Pacific, over our vast fertile prairies, I was enabled, according to the Resolutions of the Lambeth Conference, by the unanimous wish of the Church in Rupert's Land, by the kind help of the Church Missionary Society, and by the countenance of your grace, as our Metropolitan, to divide my Diocese into four Dioceses; and three of my Clergy, admirably gifted for their respective duties, were consecrated as Bishops. Then we formed our Provincial Organization.

I cannot describe, at length, the progress of the last four or five years—the entrance of thousands of emigrants—the rise of new settlements—the filling up of a very large number of Townships—and then along with this the growth and extension of our Institutions. The building, through the munificent aid of a friend of the Church Missionary Society, of an excellent Ladies'

School, in connection with the College—the establishment of a University, on a most satisfactory basis, uniting all denominations, in which St. John's College is one of the Colleges for Students in Arts, having a separate faculty for Theological Studies and Degrees, and having fully secured to it its own government, discipline, and religious worship and teaching.

So much for the past. As regards the future I shall only quote words spoken lately in the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, by the Hon. A. Morris, who last winter left Manitoba, after holding for six years successively the offices of Chief Justice and Lieutenant Governor. "Towns and villages will spring up almost as by magic, as was the case in the Western States. When I went to Winnipeg I found a population of 500, and now in their city they had a population of 7,000." The emigration of the present season must have raised it to nearly 9,000.

The consequence, I need not say, is that we have great Mission difficulties. New settlements are being formed over the whole province of Manitoba. A continuous settlement now extends along the highway west of Winnipeg, towards the Diocese of Saskatchewan, for about one hundred and fifty miles. Our own people have done, and are doing, a great deal. Besides the Cathedral, our principal parish in Winnipeg, Holy Trinity, though only a few years old, supports entirely its own Rector, giving him £411 a year. Within these years it has built a large Church, and this summer it placed in it an organ, at a cost of £800. In nearly all our parishes and Missions the people have guaranteed a considerable part of the Clergyman's salary. We have established a Clergy Widow and Orphans' Fund, and raised, with the aid of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, a small Clergy Endowment Fund, which is a great help. The most of our old Indian Missions have a small endowment, raised entirely by themselves. We have ourselves paid nearly half the expense of the new Ladies' School, which is a fine stone and brick building, with all modern conveniences. We have founded several valuable Scholarships in St. John's College. In almost every parish and Mission in the past few years much has had to be done in building Churches, Schools or Parsonages, supplying harmoniums, and meeting many expenses. There has been an excellent School system established over the province, of which we bear our share. All this has been done amid difficulties that really have been at times absolutely crushing. Not to mention political troubles of a very serious character, now happily at an end, we were subject for the first ten years of my residence, to the frightful devastations of locusts. On two or three occasions they wholly destroyed all the crops in the country. We are now free of them, but they have left many of our people very impoverished, and burdened by mortgages on their land.

The question, then, is, how we can supply the New Settlements with the means of grace. We have the help of kind grants from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and the Colonial and Continental Church Society; and we are greatly aided by the help still given by the Church

Missionary Society to their old Missions; but at this time there are four most important Mission centres unfilled, at a grievous loss to us. We require to have at the free disposal of our Mission Board at least £300 yearly.

The other religious bodies in Canada are deeply moved by the great future before us. They are straining every nerve to occupy early the New Settlements. The Presbyterian body of Canada spent \$13,000 last year on the Educational and Ministerial work of their Church in the country, and that is not all. They promise to add \$500 wherever any body of settlers guarantee for a Presbyterian Minister \$300. The Wesleyan body in Canada appropriated last year 15,000 to the country. Other Denominations in Canada are similarly helping their co-religionists. But our own Church in Canada, though I believe I would have the kindest permission from all the Bishops to get what I could myself in their respective dioceses, feels itself so unequal to its own Missions that it can promise us no regular help. During the year, between our last Meetings of Synod, I got no help from any Synod in Canada, and only one sum privately from a congregation in Quebec. That is our position. We are thrown on ourselves, and on what England can give us. The devoted work of the Church Missionary Society in Indian Missions gave us a vantage ground, and we have been mainly holding our ground to the extent we have by the self-denying efforts of our Central Cathedral and College Staff. But the older Settlements require at length a resident clergyman, and if we cannot supply this, others will. Then, as Settlements grow up further from the Cathedral, they become beyond reach, while the growing population near us calls more and more for all our energies.

But we have another very pressing need arising from the progress of the country and the success of our Schools. We have crowded together in one large wood building our Theological Students, the Students of the University in Arts, and the boys of the College School. We are unable to give a separate room to each Student. We cannot receive more. We had, within the last two or three years, when there were no University Students, to refuse a number of boys as boarders. It is, therefore, a very pressing need for us to have a separate building for our Students in Theology and Arts. We need it for the discipline and satisfaction of the pupils, and for our maintaining and advancing the good educational position St. John's College has taken in the country. We need for this building £5,000.

St. John's College receives £200 from the Church Missionary Society, on account of the education of Students. This is all the aid the College receives. We require at least £5,000 for further endowment and the removal of burdens brought on us by building that was necessary. The Presbyterian Manitoba College, another of the Colleges of our University, receives from their Church about \$4,000 yearly. A year ago it received \$3,500 for the purchase of a building. I see

from the Manitoba papers that the General Assembly, at their late Meeting, resolved to raise \$100,000 in Canada and Great Britain, or upwards of £20,000, for the building and endowment of that College.

I have mentioned, your Grace, these efforts of other bodies simply to show how we stand. Their efforts spring from an intelligent understanding of the situation. I have ventured on this lengthened statement because I feel Manitoba occupies a singular position at present among British Colonies. Minnesota, a state of very similar character to Manitoba, was only a very few years ago in a like position. Minnesota has now nearly a million of people, and other States are rising up to the west of it. Your Grace must remember the eloquent and weighty words we heard lately from the Bishop of Long Island, on the disastrous results of neglect of the Colonies in the past. There is a danger of this again. Many Colonies are now above or at any rate beyond help. Perhaps on this account the interest in helping any is not great. Yet, unquestionably, there is now in Manitoba, and there will be by-and-bye in the west of it, in my own Diocese, and the Diocese of Saskatchewan, one of those opportunities of needed help, that if lost must be of serious damage to the Church to which we belong, and that can never be regained.

I am, my Lord Archbishop,

Your Grace's most humble and obedient Servant,

R. RUPERT'S LAND,

Metropolitan.

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